

# The Channel

[www.shorelinecity.com](http://www.shorelinecity.com)



S U M M E R 2 0 0 5

## City Commission

Mayor  
Stephen J. Warmington

Vice Mayor  
Commissioner At Large  
Bill Larson

Commissioner At Large  
Stephen J. Gawron

Commissioner Ward I  
Chris Carter

Commissioner Ward II  
Clara Shepherd

Commissioner Ward III  
Lawrence O. Spataro

Commissioner Ward IV  
Kevin Davis

City Manager  
Bryon L. Mazade

City of Muskegon  
P.O. Box 536  
933 Terrace Street  
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231-724-6721  
Gail A. Kunderling  
Newsletter Editor  
Carly Sherburn  
Co-Editor

## Proposed Relocation of the Muskegon Markets

Information is being gathered for the proposed relocation of the popular Muskegon markets from their current Yuba Street home to the former Teledyne site off Shoreline Drive. The Muskegon markets consist of the Farmers' Market and Flea Market.

Relocating the markets from the outskirts of downtown to a more centralized location will not only involve the redevelopment of a brownfield site, but will have a significant impact on the local economy. According to a report by the Kellogg Foundation, markets provide additional benefits for the surrounding area, by bringing about social and economic activities. The additional benefits could take form in a boost to surrounding retail business, as well as local job creation.

The proposed site will open up new possibilities for the markets and the redevelopment of downtown Muskegon. It will also provide a centralized location that will serve as a community-gathering place. There will be easy access to the site for farmers and customers and the proposed relocation site will be easily identifiable. The Farmers' Market will not be relocated until the new site is developed.

**Current Yuba Street Site**



**Proposed Terrace Street Site**



# COMMUNITY ACCESS LINE OF THE LAKESHORE

## GET CONNECTED. GET ANSWERS.

Community Access Line of the Lakeshore is a new resource available to the Muskegon area. By simply dialing 2-1-1 local residents have twenty-four hour, seven days a week access to contact information for many important local services.

Certified Information and Referral Call Specialists are always ready to direct calls to food and emergency shelters, youth shelters, volunteer opportunities, counseling services, job assistance centers, Meals on Wheels, and many more. Cell phone and pay phone users should dial 739-5858 or 1-800-442-0054 to reach the Access Line. The extensive data base can also be accessed on the internet by visiting [www.call-211.org](http://www.call-211.org).

The in-depth project took six years of collaboration and teamwork to bring an important service to the Muskegon community. The Community Access Line of the Lakeshore (CALL) is a non-profit health and human service organization directed by a board of twenty-one members. Many thanks go to past and current member organizations that aid in the success of CALL, including the ALCOA Foundation, Howmet Castings, the Community Foundation for Muskegon County, United Way, the Verizon Foundation, Access Health, Chamber of Commerce, City of Muskegon, City of Muskegon Heights, City of Norton Shores, County of Muskegon, Department of Human Services, Hackley Hospital, Hackley Community Health Care Center, Hackley Library, Muskegon Area Intermediate School District, Mercy General Health Partners, Muskegon Chronicle, Muskegon Community Health Project, Muskegon Family Care, Parmenter O'Toole, and Senior Resources.

Community Access Line of the Lakeshore (CALL)

255 W. Sherman Blvd.

Muskegon Heights, MI 49444

Contact: Maggie Jensen (231) 739-5858



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## QUALIFYING INCOME LIMIT TO DEFER SUMMER PROPERTY TAXES MODIFIED

*Change impacts senior citizens, veterans and persons with disabilities*

The Michigan General Property Tax Act has been amended with Public Act 24 of 2005 to allow certain citizens, including senior citizens, veterans and persons with disabilities, to defer their summer property taxes if they have a **household income below \$35,000**. The previous income level for deferment was \$25,000.

At the beginning of July, treasurers across the state mailed property tax bills including information regarding property tax deferrals based on the previous \$25,000 income limit. It has since been determined by the state that the new \$35,000 income limit will be used in *this year's* summer property tax collection.

To qualify for the deferment under the new qualifying income limit, a city resident must meet one or more of the following conditions as defined by the State Income Tax Act:

- ♦ Is a totally and permanently disabled person, blind person, paraplegic, quadriplegic, eligible serviceperson, eligible veteran, or eligible widow or widower.
- ♦ Is 62 years of age or older, including the un-remarried surviving spouse of a person who was 62 years of age or older at the time of death.

City residents who believe they qualify under the new limit and wish to defer their summer property taxes can obtain an **Application for Deferment of Summer Taxes** from the county treasurer's office at: **Muskegon County Hall of Justice Building – 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, County Treasurer's Office, 990 Terrace Street, Muskegon, MI, phone: (231) 724-6261**. Collection of the approved deferred taxes will be delayed until the winter property taxes are due.

## National Night Out Against Crime

Take a stand and show your unity in the fight against crime. On Tuesday, August 2, neighborhoods throughout Muskegon were invited to join forces with thousands of communities nationwide for the "22nd Annual National Night Out" (NNO) crime and drug prevention event. National Night Out, which is sponsored by the National Association of Town Watch and co-sponsored locally by area police agencies and Consumers Energy, involves over 10,000 communities. In all, over 34 million people were expected to participate in 'America's Night Out Against Crime' on August 2nd. NNO 2005 is being supported in part by the Target Corporation and the U.S. Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Assistance.

National Night Out is designed to:

- (1) Heighten crime and drug prevention awareness;
- (2) Generate support for, and participation in, local anticrime efforts;
- (3) Strengthen neighborhood spirit and police-community partnerships; and
- (4) Send a message to criminals letting them know neighborhoods are organized and fighting back.



From 7 to 10 p.m. on August 2, residents in neighborhoods throughout Muskegon County and



across the nation were asked to lock their doors, turn on outside lights and spend the evening outside with neighbors and police.

Muskegon started off National Night Out with a County-wide Kick-off Event in the parking lot of K-Mart on Apple Avenue from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. on August 2<sup>nd</sup>. That served to get the word out about that evening's event. The County-wide kick off event involved Muskegon Neighborhood Associations and area Police Officers. We gave out free punch, snack food items, safety literature and light bulbs to those who stopped at the kick off event. Consumer's Energy had a bucket truck on site to display our banner over Apple Avenue. Lowe's Home Improvement donated light bulbs for the giveaway. Plumb's provided the cookies and punch. A ClearChannel Radio station was doing a remote broadcast from the site to help get the word out.

In addition to asking residents to turn on their outside lights a number of neighborhoods held special events to bring neighbors together for National Night Out. If you do not know how to contact your local neighborhood association, please feel free to

contact the Police-Community Coordinator, Mr. Denny Powers at 724-6764. Those neighborhoods who held events include: Sheldon Park, McLaughlin, Angell, Oakview, Marsh, Nims and the East Muskegon Neighborhood Alliance.

Many of us have reached the point where we no longer know our neighbors and our own neighborhoods. In order to make our neighborhoods safer, police and residents need to work together. Get to know your neighbors so you will be better equipped to be able to tell when something is out of place or suspicious and know when to call 911. We need a concerted effort if we are going to drive crime out of our neighborhoods. Look out for each other.

If you were not able to take part in the National Night Out events held this year, please contact your neighborhood association and offer to help plan and participate in next year's event.

*Join your neighborhoods in "Giving Crime and Drugs a Going Away Party"!*

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## Julia Hackley Educational Fund Interns

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Through the Julia Hackley Fund and the Community Foundation four college students have benefited this summer. Jonathon Witmer, Lisa Yager, Crystal Vauters, and Carly Sherburn were given the opportunity to intern at City Hall. An eight thousand dollar grant will be split evenly between the selected students in return for their services. The goal of this program is to allow college students to recognize that Muskegon is a valuable place to live and work upon graduation.

**Jonathon Witmer** works in the Planning and Economic Development Department. He earned his Bachelor's Degree in geography from Grand Valley State University. In October he will travel to Heriot-Watt University in Edinburgh, UK (Scotland) to earn his graduate degree in Urban Regeneration. Jonathon gained valuable experience while interning with Ottawa County and the North Central Trail Association where he created trail mapping and customer specific projects. Through a work exchange program he was able to study abroad in Edinburgh.

**Lisa Yager** is a first-year intern at City Hall and was placed in the Engineering Department. She attends Central Michigan University where she majors in Music Education and minors in German and mathematics. She received three scholarships. A talented musician, she plays the trumpet, piano, guitar, and violin. She is active in the Central Michigan University band, Concert Choir, and German Club. Last Spring she was able to study abroad in Germany. She has worked previously as an office assistant, a cashier at Meijer, and a mathematics tutor at Muskegon Community College.

**Crystal Vauters** came back for her second summer at City Hall on the Julia Hackley Internship program. She works in the Community and Neighborhood Services department assisting with many special projects and managing public relations events. She will begin her junior year this fall at Western Michigan University as a Business major. She belongs to the Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority at WMU. She is an active member in her church as well as a singer in her college's Gospel Choir.

**Carly Sherburn** is also a first-year intern working in the City Clerk's Office. She attended Columbia College Chicago last year and majored in Graphic Design, allowing her to help put together the Channel Newsletter. She is interested in art, enjoys drawing and painting and has artwork on display at Columbia College. She received five college scholarships for her academic achievements. She has a background as an office assistant as well as food service at the Muskegon Yacht Club.

## Major Construction Projects



Following are some of the major projects that have either been completed and/or will be under construction this summer:

- Construction on the section of **Southern Avenue** between Seaway Drive and Sixth Street will begin in August of 2005 and continue until the end of the year. During this construction period the street will not be accessible to thru traffic due to the extensive amount of work being proposed. The project cost is estimated at over \$600,000 which will greatly improve services to adjacent properties and also result in a much smoother ride.
- **Clay Avenue** between Spring Street and Terrace Street will be reconstructed during the months of August and September. During this time, thru traffic will be prohibited and local traffic will be considerably inconvenienced. This project will cost approximately \$450,000.
- The City's thirty years of vision and planning has finally become reality. As of June 24<sup>th</sup>, 2005 the last section of **Shoreline Drive** between First Street and Webster Avenue was completed. As you may recall, the last piece of Shoreline Drive was constructed in 2004 and this most recent piece was reconstructed and opened to traffic in June of 2005. At \$11,000,000, this project was very possibly the largest roadway construction project the City has ever undergone.





# ECONOMIC IMPROVEMENTS IN MUSKEGON



shoreline drive

downtown

summertime

watermark

lake express

Shoreline Drive reconstruction was completed the week prior to Summer Celebration. Citizens are encouraged to take this new route through the downtown, which winds along the beautiful Muskegon Lake shoreline. Several new developments can be seen emerging along the new transportation route. This includes the completion of the MSB II building, which will house the National City headquarters, and the start of construction on the Parmenter O'Toole law firm building on Edison Landing. In addition, it is anticipated that construction will begin on the infrastructure for the City Center site (former downtown mall). As the public infrastructure begins (which includes the reconstruction of Western Avenue), it is anticipated that several lots along the roadways will be sold for private development. Current purchase agreements include several of the existing buildings on the site, as well as some of the vacant lots.

The City, County and Downtown Muskegon Development Corporation (DMDC) continue to work on securing funding for the City Center project. Thus far, a \$1 Million Community Development Block Grant has been approved, as well as \$700,000 in Urban Land Assembly funds from the Michigan Economic Development Corporation.

The City has been fortunate to receive several important grants from the State recently, including \$1 Million in CDBG funds for the City Center (through the County of Muskegon), \$500,000 for Neighborhoods of Choice (streetscape improvements along Fifth Street between Western Avenue and Monroe Avenue, repaving a portion of Fifth Street, and developing a Hackley Heritage Trail that will lead people past the gardens and some of the historic sites) and \$325,460 for streetscape improvements along Western Avenue from Third to Eighth Streets.

To the West of Downtown, The Watermark Loft Condominiums (former Shaw Walker building) are ready for occupancy. The owners have started their second phase, which is commercial space. They plan to have this phase completed by late summer.

The Lake Express cross-lake ferry has begun its second season of operation. Ridership has been good for the season. Lakeside businesses are enjoying the results of the cross-lake ferry, as well. New businesses have opened and new events are being planned. A fun fall event will be scheduled to bring folks into Lakeside to become more familiar with the current mix of businesses there.

Summer has begun, with an excellent Summer Celebration. The fun will continue with additional festivals and events, and new construction taking place.

*Muskegon is the place to be!*



# What's Hot !!



**Candles !!** So much so that they are the National Fire Protection Associations Theme for this years fire prevention week, which by the way is October 9—15. Each year in the City of Muskegon there are always a few fires that were as a result of candles. On the 7th floor of our very own Holiday Inn there was a fire which started because a candle was left unattended. Fortunately no one was injured but the property damage reached almost \$4,000. That's an expensive candle !!

## Here are some great candle safety tips to follow:

- Never leave a candle unattended.
- Lit candles should be at least a foot away from anything that can burn.
- Keep candles away from children.
- Use sturdy candle holders that won't tip and burn on sturdy uncluttered surfaces.
- Trim candle wicks to 1/4 inch before lighting.
- Keep your hair and clothing away from the flame.
- Extinguish candles when they get within 2 inches of their holder.
- Use flashlights for power outages rather than candles.
- Keep candles away from windows and doorways where drafts could affect the flame.
- And don't fall asleep with any candles lit in your home.

**FIRE FACT: Do you know why fire prevention week is observed in October of every year ??** To mark the anniversary of the Great Chicago Fire of October, 1871. Even though the Chicago Fire gets all of the recognition, another fire, the Peshtigo, Wisconsin wild land fire actually took more lives and with embers being blown over Lake Michigan into the northern Lower Peninsula. The fire burned from the Lake Michigan shoreline almost to the Lake Huron shoreline !!

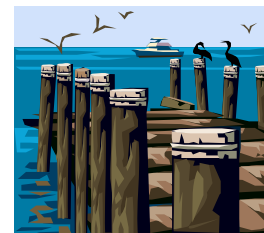
**Arson is NOT a victimless crime. Report arson fires at 1-800-44-ARSON**

## Water Safety Tips !!!!

### Pier Safety, a matter of life or death.



- ♦ Closely supervise your children
- ♦ Life jackets should be worn by younger children and non-swimmers.
- ♦ DO NOT DIVE off of or swim around pier structures.
- ♦ Stay off of piers during high winds or when waves are washing over the pier.
- ♦ Don't get too close to the edge.



# Election and Voting Information

## Upcoming Election

**November 8, 2005**—City General Election held to elect a Mayor and two City Commissioners in At-Large positions. Also on the ballot will be Ward I City Commissioner position. There will also be a County Commissioner election in Precincts 10, 11, 12, and 13. October 10, 2005 is the last day to register to be able to vote in the City General Election.

## Election Poll Workers Needed

For each election, the City of Muskegon operates thirteen polling place locations and a absentee counting board. Poll Workers are trained and paid. For more information, call :

**(231) 724-6705**

## Absentee Ballot Deadline

The deadline for absentee applications to receive a ballot via mail is the Saturday prior to election day at 2:00 PM at the City Clerk's office, 933 Terrace Street, City Hall. A registered voter is eligible to obtain an absentee ballot for an upcoming election if they are :

- ◆ Age 60 years old or older
- ◆ Unable to vote without assistance at the polls
- ◆ Expecting to be out of town on election day
- ◆ In jail awaiting arraignment or trial
- ◆ Unable to attend the polls due to religious reasons
- ◆ Appointed to work as an election inspector in a precinct outside their precinct of residence.

## Candidates on November Ballot



### City of Muskegon Mayor

- Ric Scott
- Steve Warmington

### City Commissioner At Large position

- J. Eugene Bolton
- Stephen J. Gawron
- Bill Larson
- Sue Wierengo

### Ward I

- Chris Carter

### County Commissioner District 10

- John Van Wyck, Republican
- Roger Wade, Democrat

Precincts 10, 11, 12 & 13.



### **Polling Locations**

<b>Precinct 1</b>	<b>Marquette School</b>	<b>Precinct 8</b>	<b>Nelson School</b>
<b>Precinct 2</b>	<b>Steele School</b>	<b>Precinct 9</b>	<b>Fire Station # 4</b>
<b>Precinct 3</b>	<b>Oakview School</b>	<b>Precinct 10</b>	<b>Glenside School</b>
<b>Precinct 4</b>	<b>Smith Ryerson Bldg.</b>	<b>Precinct 11</b>	<b>McGraft Park Bldg.</b>
<b>Precinct 5</b>	<b>McLaughlin School</b>	<b>Precinct 12</b>	<b>Bunker School</b>
<b>Precinct 6</b>	<b>Hackley Admin. Bldg.</b>	<b>Precinct 13</b>	<b>Bluffton School</b>
<b>Precinct 7</b>	<b>Moon School</b>		

*A special thank you to City Intern Carly Sherburn  
who put this edition of the Channel Newsletter  
together and to all who submitted articles and news.*

*Gail A. Kunderger, City Clerk  
Channel Newsletter Editor*

### **City Meeting Schedules**

Citizen's Police Review Board	1st Monday of month @ 6:30 PM
City Commission Meeting	2nd & 4th Tuesdays @ 5:30 PM
Citizen's District Council	1st Tuesday of month @ 5:30 PM
Civil service Commission	1st Wednesday of month @ 4:00 PM
City Commission Work Session	Monday preceding the 2nd Tuesday @ 5:30 PM
Community Relations Committee	1st Monday of month @ 5:30 PM
Downtown Development Authority	3rd Tuesday of month @ 4:00 PM
Equal Employment Opportunity	4th Monday of month @ 5:15 PM
Historic District Commission	1st Tuesday of month @ 4:00 PM
Housing Board of Appeals	1st Thursday of month @ 5:30 PM
Land Reutilization Committee	4th Tuesday of month @ 4:00 PM
Legislative Policy Committee	4th Wednesday of January, April, July, October @ 5:30 PM
Leisure Services Board	Quarterly 3rd Monday of month @ 6:00 PM
City Employee Pension Boards	2nd Friday of month @ 10:30 AM
Planning Commission	Thursday following the 2nd Tuesday @ 4:00 PM
Public Relations Committee	2nd Tuesday @ 4:00 PM
Zoning Board of Appeals	2nd Tuesday @ 4:00 PM

### **City Telephone Numbers**

Affirmative Action.....	724-6703
Assessor.....	724-6708
Cemetery.....	724-6783
Civil Service.....	724-6716
City Clerk.....	724-6705
City Manager.....	724-6724
Community & Neighborhood Services.....	724-6717
Engineering.....	724-6707
Finance.....	724-6713
Fire.....	724-6792
Income Tax.....	724-6770
Inspections.....	724-6715
Leisure Services.....	724-6704
Mayor & City Commission.....	724-6701
Planning & Economic Development.....	724-6702
Police.....	724-6750
Public Works.....	724-4100
Treasurer.....	724-6720
Water/Sewer Billing.....	724-6718